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I am excited to be writing about the opportunity to work as a Student Success Graduate Assistant at Oregon State University. I was immediately drawn to this position and feel it would be an ideal fit for my professional and academic background. I am passionate about helping students and feel this role would allow me the opportunity to do so while also gaining useful experience that will help me in my goal of becoming a professor.

I was incredibly excited about the innovative and collaborative nature of the work this role will be doing in support of the Grad Advantage initiative. I discovered my love for this type of work while pursuing my MBA and working at the Career Development Center. During this time I helped plan, implement and assess a number of events, programs and initiatives. One of these was helping with all aspects of our Career Expos which attract hundreds of employees and thousands of students every term. I also worked to found and run our Career Advisory Committee with representatives from companies like Boeing, Target and the United Way. During this time I was asked by university leadership to lead a large assessment program of five years of past Student Life data which was used as part of a major rebranding and reallocation of funding for the department.

While a portion of my work experience has been focused on supporting students I have also worked as a Software Engineer at both Cambia Health Solutions and Amazon. I feel my work in these roles would be useful in the technological aspects of the Grad Advantage initiative. In both of my roles I was working on customer facing software. This included learning about and gathering metrics to understand customer engagement and improve customer experience. I also am currently developing an iOS app as a personal project. It is mostly for personal learning but the goal is that the application might help make it easier for students to find and attend campus events.

I have always been passionate about innovative programs and ideas and feel that there is a strong component of innovation in this position that I could apply this passion towards. I also liked the collaborative nature of this role and would love to get to know the other team members in the Graduate School. I hope I am able to speak more about my interest in this role and my background.

Thanks for your time,   
David Vasquez